

INTRODUCTION OF THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill to amend and reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. In the 110th Congress, I joined my colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, in introducing H.R. 1205, the "Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2007", which the House of Representatives passed by voice vote on October 22, 2007. The bill I have introduced today, with Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA and 15 other colleagues, strengthens H.R. 1205 without changing its original intent.

Conservation of coral reef ecosystems is essential to protect public health, promote environmental sustainability, and ensure long-term economic progress for the jurisdictions we represent in Congress. The sovereign waters of the United States off the coast of Guam, and in the Pacific region as a whole, contain a majority of the shallow-water coral reefs in the United States, as well as some of the world's greatest coral reef biodiversity. These reefs, and reefs around the world, protect us from storm waves, provide habitat and shelter for fisheries, provide food and recreation for our residents, and are the basis for marine tourism industries.

Today, however, various pressures on the world's reefs threaten to destroy them and the numerous ecosystem services that they provide. Unless the United States acts in conjunction with the global community to support focused, prolonged action on coral reef education, research, and management, the condition of our coral reefs will continue to degrade.

Since its enactment in 2000, the Coral Reef Conservation Act has stimulated a greater commitment to protect, conserve, and restore coral reef resources within jurisdictional waters of the United States. As a result, we now have a much better grasp of the condition of our coral reefs, and more focused management capability than at any time in our history. The Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009 would further strengthen the original legislation by establishing a new community-based planning grants program, by promoting international cooperation, and by recognizing the important contributions of the U.S. Department of the Interior in coral reef management and conservation efforts.

This bill would also codify the United States Coral Reef Task Force established in 1998 by President Clinton through Executive Order 13089. The work of the Task Force and its mission to coordinate the efforts of the United States in promoting conservation and the sustainable use of coral reefs internationally is vital to our interests. Since 1998, the Task Force has acted to facilitate and support better management and conservation of coral reef resources at the local level. Many beneficial efforts, such as the development and implementation of local action strategies to address threats to our reefs, are underway thanks to the work of the Task Force and its member agencies.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation to enhance our capacity for the conservation and restoration of healthy and diverse coral reef ecosystems, our "Rainforests of the Sea".

COMMEMORATION OF MONSIGNOR BONNER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, on this day, one of the finest schools in Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District will pay honor to its many exceptional graduates who have given their lives in service to our nation.

It is with a combination of pride and humility that I rise to honor the alumni, faculty, students and families of Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. Specifically, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dennis Murphy and Mr. Jim Ulmer. These two combat Veterans of the Vietnam War, in collaboration with other Veterans, graduates, and school president, the Rev. Augustine M. Esposito, O.S.A., Ph.D. have worked hard to pay tribute to Bonner's courageous graduates, their families and comrades-in-arms past, present, and future.

Founded in 1953 and expertly led by friars of the Order of St. Augustine, Monsignor Bonner High School has imbued in every young man who has passed through its doors the moral and intellectual foundation required to serve our nation with honor, courage, and commitment. Among its alumni and faculty are thousands of veterans including the Rev. John Melton, O.S.A., who served in the United States Marine Corps and throughout his tenure as Bonner's Guidance Counselor inspired an untold number of young men to follow his example of service to country, community, and God.

As our nation fights two wars far from our shores it is essential that we thank Monsignor Bonner High School and its surrounding neighborhoods in the Delaware Valley that have offered so many of their sons and daughters in service to our nation.

There is a headstone in Ireland that reads, "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal." Today, Monsignor Bonner High School continues to reflect the very best in our nation and society in memorializing the sacrifices of some of its many heroes. Most importantly, they have done so in a way that will forever represent our love and our respect for the great gift those young men offered in service to the United States of America.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss an article in today's New York Times confirming that renewable energy industries—especially wind and solar—have been slowed

significantly by the credit crisis and the broader economic downturn.

I believe that we should not allow frozen credit markets to derail renewable-energy projects, and we cannot allow reduced oil prices to lull us into complacency.

We have an opportunity to address both of these concerns by working with the Senate, and with the Obama Administration, to pass the economic recovery package into law.

I believe that the recovery package must extend tax credits for biofuels, wind, and solar. It must make infrastructure investments. It must increase federal dollars for energy research, development, and deployment. And it must encourage the production of alternative fuel motor vehicles, including plug-in electric drive vehicles.

The time to act is now. A clean, green recovery package is our nation's best path to restoring our economy, and our best chance of creating jobs that cannot be outsourced.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR JAMES B. PEARSON OF KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the death of former Kansas United States Senator James B. Pearson, who died on January 13th at the age of 88.

Appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1962, upon the death of Andrew Schoeppel, James B. Pearson served our state with distinction from 1962 through 1978. Elected in 1962, and re-elected in 1966 and 1972, Senator Pearson was a workhorse, not a showhorse. A senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he also rose to become Ranking Republican member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Senator Pearson represented our state during an important and turbulent era, addressing issues that included: the Vietnam War; the civil rights revolution; enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs; America's space exploration program; and deregulation of the trucking and airline industries. Senator Pearson was a voice of reason and common sense during these difficult times and I am proud that he was originally from Prairie Village, which is located in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. In 2003, I joined with the rest of the Kansas congressional delegation in authoring legislation naming the Prairie Village U.S. post office in his honor.

Madam Speaker, the website for the Topeka Capital-Journal newspaper recently carried a blog commentary regarding Senator Pearson's career, which I believe very accurately summarizes his service to Kansas throughout his public life. I ask that it be included with this statement, as well as the obituary article regarding Senator Pearson that was published in the Washington Post.

[From the Topeka Capital Journal, Jan. 29, 2009]

MELLINGER: PEARSON'S POLITICAL STORY IS ONE WORTH REMEMBERING

(By Gwyn Mellinger)

Without fanfare, Jim Pearson, one of Kansas' most complex politicians, died earlier